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Joe Courtney  
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January 13, 2014

Mr. Frank Gardner  
Brownfield Coordinator for New England  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
5 Post Office Square Suite 100  
Boston, MA 02109

Re: Town of Preston Fiscal Year 2014 EPA Brownfield Grant Application

Dear Mr. Gardner:

I write in support of the application submitted by the Preston Redevelopment Agency for funding from the Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Grants program.

The Town of Preston is applying for three clean-up Brownfield Grants in the amount of \$200,000 each with a town match of \$40,000 that will be used to abate hazardous building materials for properties located at 25 Riverview Way - Seymour Building, 15 Fort Point Road - Lodge Building and 46 Route 12 - Kettle Building (all located within Preston River walk-former *Norwich State Hospital*).

As of July 2013, thirty-two buildings of the former Norwich State Hospital were demolished for the new Preston Riverwalk project. However, to date the site remains dangerous and toxic. The Town of Preston is redeveloping the 393-acre site into viable and developable parcels. The Preston Riverwalk redevelopment project consists of high capacity public utilities infrastructure, an active railroad, 500' deep-water dock, nearby shipping port, and direct Thames River frontage.

The Preston Riverwalk could be a real economic engine in eastern Connecticut. Located directly across the Thames River from the Mohegan Sun Resort & Casino on direct route to Foxwoods Resort & Casino (each having nearly 25,000 visitors per day) and just off the I-395 highway connector at the intersection of Routes 2a and 12, the site has access to 27.5 million people within a 2.5 hour drive. Additionally, the site is nearby major attractions and employers including General Dynamics Electric Boat, Mystic Seaport, Mystic Aquarium, and the US Naval Sub Base.

The Preston Riverwalk redevelopment is long overdue for the potential regional economic opportunities and environmental stewardship of the site. Brownfield funding will enable The Town of Preston to continue remediation of the parcels, including the removal of blighted buildings and hazardous waste.

I fully endorse the application submitted by the Preston Redevelopment Agency for Brownfield Grant funding and urge your thoughtful consideration of this request. If I can be of further assistance to this application, please contact Matthew Reutter at (860) 886-0139 or [matthew.reutter@mail.house.gov](mailto:matthew.reutter@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

  
JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress